

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00767 291026Z

21

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4584

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 767

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BURUNDI POSITION ON ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF STATE 261727

BY TIME REFTEL PROCESSED HERE TODAY, WE GATHER URGENCY OF ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS HAS PASSED OWING TO UNGA RESOLUTION AND STATEMENT OF MILITARY JUNTA THAT NO MORE SUMMARY EXECUTIONS ARE PLANNED. BURUNDI GOVERNMENT, IN VIEW OF ITS OWN HISTORY OF INTERNAL TROUBLES, IS, OF COURSE, AMONG MOST LOATH OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ON QUESTIONS OF JOINT ACTION INVOLVING DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER REGIME. MOREOVER, IT IS NOT IN HABIT OF GETTING OUT IN FRONT ON ANY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, THOUGH IT IS READY TO BE VOCAL AND MILITANT ON ANY ISSUE ON WHICH AFRICANS (ESPECIALLY "PROGRESSIVES") HAVE REACHED CONSENSUS. THUS, IN ETHIOPIAN CASE, BURUNDI WOULD INEVITABLY HANG BACK IN TAKING ANY POSITION, THOUGH IF GREAT MAJORITY OF FELLOW OAU MEMBERS FINALLY ADOPTED A GENERAL LINE (AS HAS IN FACT HAPPENED), BURUNDI WOULD NOT RPT NOT REMAIN ODD MAN OUT.

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